

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /011 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 270405

EXDIS TOPOL 36

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

FOL REPEAT OF CAIRO 9978 TO SECSTATE DEC 9

QTE:

S E C R E T CAIRO 9978

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: STUDENT AND WORKERS UNREST OVER GOE

POLICIES

REF: CAIRO 9675

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ASHRAF MARWAN
TODAY, AMBASSADOR ALLUDED TO PRESIDENT'S REMARKS OF A FEW DAYS
AGO ABOUT TROUBLE THAT "COMMUNIST" ACTIVITIES AMONG STUDENTS
AND LABORERS IN PARTICULAR ARE CURRENTLY CAUSING. AMBASSADOR
ASKED IF MARWAN COULD ELABORATE. MARWAN ECHOED THE CHARGE
THA "COMMUNISTS" ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE AMONG STUDENTS AND
LABORERS. THEY ARE ALLEGEDLY HAMMERING ON SEVERAL THEMES:

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TOWARD THE USG. ON THE CONTRARY, BY ALIENATING USSR, IT HAS

LOST ADVANTAGES WHICH IT HAD EARLIER ENJOYED. SINCE JANUARY
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI. ON CONTRARY, SITUATION HAS BECOME FROZEN.
NOR HAS USG PROVIDED

ANY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. USG CONTINUES BE TOTALLY PARTISAN TO
ISRAEL AND AGAINST PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. RECENT RETRACTION OF
SEEMINGLY PRO-PALESTINIAN STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN LEADERS
ATTESTS TO CONTINUED BIAS USG POLICY. PRESIDENT FORD'S PUBLIC
CENSURE OF GENERAL BROWN FOR LATTER'S REMARKS ARE ALLEGEDLY
CITED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THIS. MOREOVER, AS RESULT
OF SADAT'S POLICY SHIFT, NO NEW MILITARY OR ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY SOVIETS. EGYPTIAN MILITARY
HAS BEEN BADLY WEAKENED, WHILE ISRAELI MILITARY CONTINUES TO BE
MASSIVELY STRENGTHENED BY US. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL CAN ONLY
BE ACHIEVED BY FULL COOPERATION WITH SOVIETS AND THROUGH MEDIUM
OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. SECOND, BASIC COMMODITY SHORTAGES AND INFLATION ARE
BEING SEIZED UPON THE PRESIDENT AND HEGAZY CABINET ARE
BEING CRITICIZED FOR FAILURE TO CONTROL INFLATION. UNDERLYING
THEME OF LEFTIST CHARGES, ACCORDING TO MARWAN, IS THAT USG
COULD, IF IT WISHED, PROVIDE BASIC ESSENTIALS TO PREVENT SUCH
COMMODITY SHORTAGES AND INFLATION, BUT IS DELIVERATELY NOT
DOING SO. NIXON'S "PROMISES" WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE HONORED.
IN ADDITION, STUDENTS ARE CRITICIZING CURRENT SHORTAGES OF TEXT-
BOOKS, TEXTS, NOTEBOOKS AND STUDENT ACCESSORIES.

4. THIRD, STUDENTS AND WORKERS ARE CHARGING
WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT. THE RICH ARE GETTING
RICHER AND THE POOR, POORER. THIS CRITICISM HAS BEEN
BROUGHT TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION, MARWAN OBSERVED. THE
PRESIDENT HAD ASKED FOR EVIDENCE. HE HAD REFUSED TO ACT ON THE
BASIS OF RUMORS. MARWAN CONCEDED CORRUPTION IS TAKING
PLACE, BUT CLAIMED NO HARD EVIDENCE HASTHUS FAR BEEN
ADDUCED TO INCRIMINATE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. A NUMBER OF
FOREIGN COMPANIES, INCLUDING AMERICAN, HAD BEEN ASKED ABOUT
KICKBACK DEMANDS, BUT ALL HAD REFUSED TO REPLY EVEN HOUGH
THIS MIGHT MEAN LOSS OF CONTRACT.

5. FOURTH, STUDENTS AND LABORERS ARE CRITICISING RECENT
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SUGGESTION THAT ASU NO LONGER BE SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY AND
THAT DUAL OR MULTI PARTY SYSTEM BE ESTABLISHED. THIS IDEA
HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY THE AMIN BROTHERS. STUDENTS AND LABORERS ARE
ALLEGEDLY CHARGING THAT AMINS ARE IN USG PAY AND THAT THAT THERE
RECOMMENDATIONS IS BEING MADE AT BEHEST OF US GOVT.
A "WESTERN AMBASSADOR"-- NOT US AMBASSADOR--IS REPORTEDLY
BEING QUOTED AS HAVING PUBLICLY SUPPORTED MULTIPLE PARTY SYSTEM
IN PLACE ASU.

6. MARWAN INDICAED GOE IS WATCHING " COMMUNIST" ACTIVITIES
AMONG STUDENTS AND LABORERS AND WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION
IN DUE COURSE.

7. COMMENT: ABOVE IS MARWAN'S VERSION OF CAUSES
OF CURRENT LEFTIST-INSPIRED STUDENT AND LABORERS' UNREST.
WHILE IT IS CLEARLY TAILORED FOR OUR EARS, OTHER REPORTS
WE HAVE SUGGEST THE SEVERAL THEMES CITED BY HIM ARE CORRECT,
AT LEAST IN THRUST IF NOT ALWAYS IN DETAIL. WITH BREZHNEV COMING
IN MID-JANUARY, LEFTISTS ARE CLEARLY ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE
THEY CAN ACT WITH IMPUNITY AND USG IS PREDICTABLE WHIPPPING
BOY. MARWAN MADE HIS COMMENT ABOUT CHARGES OF CORRUPTION
WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH, ALTHOUGH HE IS SURELY AWARE THAT HE,
PERSONALLY, IS BEING WIDELY CHARGED AMONG EGYPTIAN PUBLIC WITH
BEING ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CULPRITS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, STUDENTS, LABOR FORCE, TOPOL 36
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE270405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: P:ARAPHEL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740358-0705
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741246/aaaabnq.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: CAIRO 9675
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT AND WORKERS UNREST OVER GOE POLICIES
TAGS: PINT, EG
To: REYKJAVIK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005